

The reports of the State Audubon Societies, given in alphabetic sequence, occupy some twenty pages, and show the progress or otherwise of bird protection by States throughout the country.

This Report of the National Association, like those of former years, is a record of strenuous effort, directed as heretofore by a resourceful, zealous, and alert president, strongly supported by unselfish individual endeavor on the part of thousands of members widely scattered throughout the country and ardently coöperating for a common purpose. It is also a report of encouraging progress, and of hopeful outlook.— J. A. A.

Macoun's 'Catalogue of Canadian Birds.'¹—The first edition of this work appeared in three parts — Part I in 1900, Part II in 1903, and Part III in 1904. This new edition has been in part rewritten and brought down to date through the addition of much new matter, based largely on the recent field work of the Survey. The character and scope of the work was very fully described in this journal, in notices of the several parts of the first edition as they appeared,² which apply equally well to the present edition. A few words from the preface (signed by the senior author of this edition and author of the first edition), may be quoted in explanation of what has been attempted: "In compiling this catalogue the authors have endeavored to bring together facts on the range and nesting habits of all birds known to reside in, migrate to or visit, the northern part of the continent. In addition to the Dominion of Canada they have therefore included Newfoundland, Greenland and Alaska. The nomenclature and the numbers given in the latest edition and supplements of the Check-list published by the American Ornithologist's Union have been made the basis of arrangement of the catalogue. The order followed in the notes on each bird is, as a general rule from east to west. Greenland is generally cited first and British Columbia and Alaska last. . . . Until the publication of the first edition of this Catalogue, no attempt had been made to produce a work dealing with the ornithology of the region embraced in the Dominion of Canada since the publication of the *Fauna Boreali Americana* by Swainson and Richardson, in 1831." "Two hundred and sixty-seven species" were given in this work. It would be of interest to know how this number compares with the number contained in the present 'Catalogue,' and whether any are included in the second edition that were not contained in the first; but we find on information on these points, the numeration being that of the A. O. U. Check-List is non-consecutive, and we are unable to find any statement of the matter, and have not at this writing time to count them.³

¹ Canada | Department of Mines | Geological Survey Branch | Hon. W. Templeman, Minister; A. P. Low, Deputy Minister; R. W. Brock, Director. | — | Catalogue | of | Canadian Birds | By | John Macoun, | Naturalist to the Geological Survey, Canada, | and | James M. Macoun | Assistant Naturalist to the Geological Survey, Canada, | [Coat of Arms] | Ottawa: | Government Printing Bureau | 1909 | [No. 973.]— Svo, pp. i-viii + 1-761 + i-xviii.

² Cf. *Ank.*, Vol. XVII, Oct., 1900, pp. 394, 395; Vol. XX, Oct., 1903, p. 441; Vol. XXII, Jan., 1905, pp. 99, 100.

³ On the utility of numbering lists, see *antea*, p. 96, footnote.

The preface states in detail the places, dates, and names of the observers working under the auspices of the Survey in different years. The senior author, a botanist by profession and an ornithologist incidentally, says that "although attending to other subjects which claimed most of his time, had constantly before him the necessity of the present work and has been collecting notes and observations for it during all his journeys since 1879, while his assistant, Mr. J. M. Macoun, has carried on similar work since 1885." The notes from these dates to 1889 appear respectively under the names of J. Macoun and J. M. Macoun. "Practically all of the notes made by either of us since that time are credited to Mr. William Spreadborough," who since 1889 accompanied one or the other of the authors to the field, although during five seasons he worked quite independently of either. "It detracts nothing," says the senior author, "from the importance of other notes published for the first time in this Catalogue to say its chief value is to be found in the matter credited to Mr. Spreadborough. His notes, revised by us, cover nearly the whole Dominion from Labrador and Hudson Bay to Vancouver island and north to the Peace river. . . . The greater part of the compilation of the new material for this edition of the Catalogue has been done by my assistant Mr. J. M. Macoun."

The above extracts indicate the sources and chief basis of this great work on the distribution and ranges of Canadian birds, but all published material and much unpublished matter from correspondents, whose names and places of residence are given in the preface, has also been utilized. A two-page "list of principal authorities cited," numbering about forty titles, follows the preface. While a great deal of the matter given in the first edition is here reprinted, the chief value of the Catalogue to working ornithologists is the new notes on distribution now added. We are also privately informed that specimens of everything found south of the remote parts of Hudson Bay and the Mackenzie River exist as vouchers for the nomenclature employed. It is further stated in the preface that "as the authors expect to publish annually an addendum to this catalogue the necessary corrections will be made from time to time and the co-operation of collectors and observers is solicited for the work."

The field work here covered, and the area embraced is so extensive, that the labor of compiling such a mass of observations cannot readily be appreciated. As a result we have here brought together the principal facts of the subject, condensed into a volume of less than 800 pages. The work is therefore so important, and apparently so well done, that we reluctantly refer to the fact that the statement that the nomenclature is made up from the A. O. U. Check-List and latest supplements is hardly borne out by the body of the text. It would not be right to expect to find in it the few changes in nomenclature made in the fifteenth supplement, published in July, 1909; but it is rather surprising to find that the very numerous changes published in the fourteenth supplement, in July, 1908, have been overlooked although papers on Canadian birds published in the volume of 'The Auk' containing this supplement are freely cited. We note with satisfaction, however,

that the possessive form of bird-names derived from names of persons is consistently rejected.—J. A. A.

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